

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. - 15. (canceled)

16. An expandable downhole tool for use in a wellbore, comprising:  
an expandable mandrel movable radially outwardly by an applied force from a run  
in position to a set position:

at least one slip mounted to said mandrel;  
said slip, upon expansion of said mandrel, is retained to said mandrel by virtue of  
at least one surface irregularity on at least one of said mandrel and said slip.

17. The tool of claim 16, wherein:

said slip comprises a surface irregularity and said mandrel conforms to the shape  
of said surface irregularity on said slip when in its said set position.

18. The tool of claim 16, wherein:

said slip and said mandrel both comprise surface irregularities that conform to  
each other in the run in position of said mandrel.

19. The tool of claim 18, wherein:

said surface irregularities comprise matching undulating surfaces.

20. The tool of claim 16, wherein:

shrinkage of said mandrel as it is forced to said set position in the region of said  
surface irregularity enhances the grip between said mandrel and said slip.

21. The tool of claim 16, wherein:

said surface irregularity creates a radial component of force into said slip into contact with the wellbore in response to an uphole or downhole directed force on the mandrel with said mandrel in said set position.

22. The packer of claim 17, further comprising:

at least one anti-extrusion ring mounted to said mandrel adjacent said sealing element, said anti-extrusion ring mounted in contact with said slip.

23. – 29. (canceled)

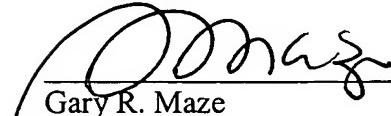
30. The packer of claim 17, wherein:

said surface irregularity comprises at least one rounded depression on said slip.

31. – 36. (canceled)

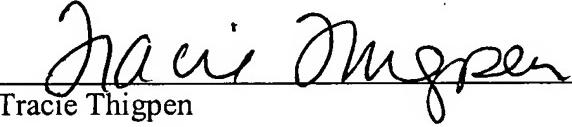
Respectfully submitted,

31 March 2004  
Date

  
Gary R. Maze  
Reg. No. 42,851  
Duane Morris LLP  
3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 3150  
Houston, TX 77027  
Phone: 713.402.3900  
Fax: 713.402.3901

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 CFR 1.10**

I hereby certify that this correspondence along with any referred to as attached or enclosed is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, Label No. EV447179342US, postage prepaid in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 31 day of March, 2004.

  
Tracie Thigpen

HOU22740.1